

North Delta Flood Control Meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

9:00-10:30AM

Rm 1142, Resources Building

Expected Outcomes:

Update group on North Delta Improvement Efforts

Present Draft White Paper on North Delta Improvements

Identify Near-term tasks and group focus

Introductions and Last Meeting Minutes

Discuss North Delta Reflector and Group Name

Present Draft White Paper on North Delta Improvements

Identify Near-Term Tasks

- Request for group comment on White Paper
- Review key issues to be addressed

Discuss Related Ongoing Efforts- Elliott Ranch South General Plan

Discuss Next Meeting Date and Agenda

Draft Meeting Notes
North Delta Flood Control Meeting
February 11, 1999 at 1:30 pm in room 1142 of the Resources Building

Attendance List:

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission
Stein Buer, CALFED
Rob Cooke, CALFED Levee Program
Craig Crouch, Sacramento County
Walter Hoppe
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED Levee Program
Grant Kreinberg, SAFCA
Mark Kubik, Ensign & Buckley
Michelle Ng, DWR
John Pulver, San Joaquin County
Michael Ramsbotham, CALFED/ACOE
Steve Roberts, DWR
Mahmond Saqqa, San Joaquin County

A meeting was held to discuss CALFED's North Delta flood control efforts. Stein B. gave background information on previous N. Delta flood control studies and explained that CALFED is looking at both long-term and short-term solutions to N. Delta flood control. The current effort is not considering setback levees as extensively as they were in DWR's N. Delta Program EIR/EIS.

Participants suggested that at this stage, possible alternatives not be eliminated as a result of reduced ecosystem benefits. The goal should be to find solutions that achieve several objectives. It was mentioned that the projects would not be as easily fundable without the ecosystem benefits, so these benefits are highlighted. (Ecosystem \$ could also provide flood control benefits).

Stein B. explained that Ensign and Buckley performed modeling for CALFED's North Delta Flood Control report dated August 25, 1998. The report's Scenario 5 (with McCormack Williamson, Brack, and Canal flooded, setback levees and dredging in the N. Fork of the Mokelumne) showed stage improvements and was considered the potential recommended solution by CALFED staff. Stein mentioned that in meeting with stakeholders in the North Delta there was a reluctance to support setback levees and extensive land acquisition. (The cost of setback levees would be great and the loss of Canal and Brack would cause a loss of agricultural production). Dredging and McCormack Williamson acquisition were more readily acceptable. Modeling of Alt. 4 indicated that Canal Ranch levees would fail. Stein suggests consideration of Alt. 4 as the interim solution. Walter H. pointed out that only channel dredging was not enough, causing only a 1' drop in stage.

It was mentioned that there are several model limitations. The current model cannot accommodate the channels around Dead Horse Island (they are combined into a single connection between the North and South Mokelumne channels) and only has one downstream boundary. There are also complications with extending the model to the San Joaquin R. It was suggested that the model should show an increase in conveyance when Dead Horse fails. Walter H., however, mentioned that in '86 the island failed on the West and gave no conveyance improvement.

Margit A. asked what modifications would go into the channel of Lost Slough if the Hood diversion goes in. Stein B. mentioned that a capacity of 2,000-4,000 cfs can be handled by the current channel and that there would also be gates to control the flow from a Hood connecting canal and Lost Slough. He said that flows probably could not go into the Mokelumne because of the potential of impacting the Mokelumne salmon run.

Stein mentioned that the potential of an isolated facility has receded in the CALFED Program, and with it the potential for pumping Morrison Creek floodwaters into a Peripheral Canal. It would not help the regional flood situation to pump into a stub which discharged into the Mokelumne River.

It was mentioned that a through-Delta screened diversion at Hood is not supported by CALFED's biologists, but the diversion could mitigate for water quality impacts of Delta cross channel closures. Some would prefer the Cross Channel to be opened more often instead of providing a diversion. Margit A. asked what the current opening schedule was. Stein mentioned that it was closed 45 days in November and January, fully closed Jan - May 20, and closed 15 days from May 21- June 15. September and October are also being looked at for closure and, in general, the trend is towards more closures to protect fish.

The CALFED Conveyance Stage I actions (p. 110-111, Phase II Report dated 12/18/98) for the North Delta were reviewed. Stein mentioned that Stage 1 Item # 10 would only be done after Item #4 is considered because of the setback levees and diversion. Also, Item #10 could be optional as there is not yet a clear policy direction. Item #11 will be done at the end of Stage 1 (year 7). Stein mentioned that prioritizing for Stage 1 actions will be open to public review.

Stein mentioned that it is not necessary to extend the model to the San Joaquin to get reasonable results. Mark K. also added that he was satisfied the issue had been addressed. John P. mentioned that the important point was that people must believe that downstream impacts are fully considered. Grant K. mentioned that, regarding point #4 on the workplan, it would be easier to get local cost-sharing if the model was extended to the San Joaquin to establish credibility. Mark K. indicated that it could be a big effort to do this. Grant K. suggested that stopping the modeling short of the confluence with the San Joaquin River but within the tidal zone be expressly stated in any documents, to avoid potential criticism.

Walt H. mentioned that raising downstream levees will confound upstream flooding problems and that conveyance either has to be increased or the peak decreased.

Stein mentioned that the models show that primary peak flood stage attenuation benefits accrue from flooding Canal Ranch and that Brack Tract does not add much in terms of flood control due to its elevation in relation to the waterway. Stein also mentioned that the flood profile is steep until you get to the tidal zone (around Hog Slough) and downstream from that location there is little influence on flood stages from dredging or flooding more land.

It was mentioned that there is a Cat III designated action that will study the Cosumnes and Mokelumne for potential ecosystem and flood control benefits- the ACOE will cost share with EBMUD and The Nature Conservancy. It was mentioned that coordination with this study will be necessary. CALFED staff will arrange for an ACOE study participant to be present at the next meeting to discuss it.

Grant K. mentioned that there is a 45-page report on an accelerated feasibility study for the Corps and will request a copy be provided to CALFED.

John P. mentioned that San Joaquin County is concerned about loss of ag land which may be part of the program. Margit suggested looking at the cost criteria for setbacks including long term maintenance. It was mentioned that (aside from expense, etc.) one reason landowners are leery of constructing setback levees on peat soils is the liability issue.

It was suggested that CALFED should do an economic comparison. Grant K. suggested looking at economic impacts and possible mitigation.

Craig C. questioned what objectives the counties, Caltrans, etc. had for flood protection and suggested researching this. John P. mentioned that SJ county would want ag flood protection, not urban standard levees. Walter H. suggested that there is a need to lower flood control levels in lieu of a bypass.

It was decided that a future meeting would be convened after new flood modeling was completed by the consultant. CALFED staff would meet with consultant ASAP to clarify modeling scenarios. It was mentioned that a North Delta flood control reflector would be created and the group members were asked to suggest who should be included. It was stressed that public outreach will be a key part of developing a N. Delta solution.

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM NORTH DELTA FLOOD CONTROL MEETING

Sign-In Sheet

Thursday, February 11, 1999
Resources Building, Room 1142
Sacramento, CA
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Name	Address/Affiliation	Phone/Fax #	E-Mail
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